

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Dear Bryan:

Thank you for your interesting letter of September 26, 2001.

As to your findings about using portions of paper money for change in the 1721-1725 period in Massachusetts, I believe there was a "Currency Committee" and I wonder if it had any comment on the matter. Did the newspapers mention any news from the committee or otherwise?

Isn't it annoying that the parchment paper bills of June 1722 were authorized and issued the same month as the Wood's patent was granted for Hibernias? Because the Rosa authorization was approved promptly thereafter in July 1722 it is reasonable that Massachusetts learned of the negotiations leading up to each of these actions and that the issue of the parchment pieces might have been partly a reaction to that knowledge. It took 5 weeks or longer to get news from England to America as Massachusetts could not have previously known of the passage of either authorization. Was there any comment in New York or farther south newspapers as to the Rosa? Since the Rosas were not coined until 1723 the early part of 1723 might have been the date the situation arose in America.

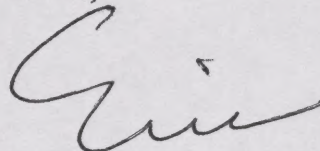
I enclose the statute authorizing the parchment bills. Not only is there an error in the amount of threes to be issued but there is a sex angle. Apparently the typesetter could not decide whether hex or six was correct so he compromised.

I hope you had a successful time in Asia. We have had many wonderful vacations there.

I am going to attend the annual C4 convention (Colonial Coin Collectors Club) in Boston on November 9 and 10 where I will speak a little and listen a lot. Will you attend this? Dr. Mossman will be there.

Keep researching. Your American newspaper findings were new to me.

Thrive,



Eric P. Newman